The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 45, No. 11 November 2013

Carolina country

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INSIDE THIS MONTH:

The Bell Island Pier

Ronald McDonald House

Carolina Country Holiday Gift Guide

Energy myths & facts—see page 10

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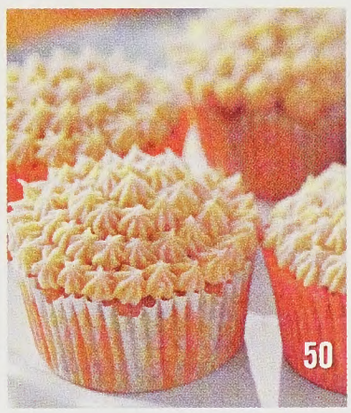
The Bell Island Pier at Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County. See the story on page 18. (Michael E.C. Gery photo)



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Carolina country
(ISSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)
2010 George W. HAGGARD Memorial Journalism Award
Read monthly in more than 735,000 homes
Published monthly by North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
3400 Sumner Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27616
www.carolinacountry.com

Editor
Michael E.C. Gery, (919) 875-3062
Senior Associate Editor
Renee C. Gannon, CCC, (919) 875-3209
Contributing Editor
Karen Olson House, (919) 875-3036

Creative Director
Tara Verna, (919) 875-3134
Senior Graphic Designer
Warren Kessler, (919) 875-3090
Graphic Designer
Linda Van de Zande, (919) 875-3110

Publication Business Specialist
Jenny Lloyd, (919) 875-3091
Advertising
Jennifer Boedart Hoey, (919) 875-3077

Executive Vice President & CEO
Joseph P. Brannan
Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations
Nelle Hotchkiss

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Why Do We Send You Carolina Country Magazine?
Your cooperative sends you Carolina Country as a convenient, economical way to share with its members information about services, director elections, meetings and management decisions. The magazine also carries legal notices that otherwise would be published in other media at greater cost.

Your co-op's board of directors authorizes a subscription to Carolina Country on behalf of the membership at a cost of less than $6 per year.

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Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (888) 388-2460.

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina Country® is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 707.4.12.5); **NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES:** send address corrections to Carolina Country, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Subscriptions: Individual subscriptions, $10 per year. $20 outside U.S.A. Schools, libraries, $6.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?
Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

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I see the moon

I was just getting back from a walk, and just before I went inside I looked up and saw the most beautiful moon that I ever saw!

Kelly Thomas, Louisburg, Wake Electric

Not so scary

My little son tried to scare me on Halloween, but he made me smile so much instead.

Elizabeth Zamudio, Lexington, EnergyUnited

Welcome to North Carolina

We have a house in Frisco and have been part-time residents of Hatteras for 30 years. My wife, Jocelyn, and two children, David Jr. and Elizabeth, truly love Hatteras Island and the great people of North Carolina and particularly the Outer Banks.

I am an Iranian-American and work for the federal government in Washington, D.C. Every chance we get we drive to our house in Hatteras. When we get to the sign saying "Welcome to North Carolina," it just gives us warm feelings. I truly believe North Carolina is an example of the kindness and greatness of this beautiful nation. My wife and I often walk around the Hatteras beaches with a couple of large bags and pick up the trash, so we can do something for the place we love.

Last summer we went to buy crabmeat in Mattamuskeet, and we wanted to use a credit card or personal check to pay. The owner told us they take only cash, and at the time we didn't carry $200 cash with us. When he asked us where we came from, he said, "Don't worry about it. It's a hot day, and you came all the way here for crabmeat. Just take the crabmeat and bring the money later." I told him we don't know when we will be back there again, and they said just come when we have time. Living in D.C. and traveling around the world, I have never in my life seen such kind and trusting people.

My son just graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and works in D.C. as well, and he repeatedly tells us how much he misses Chapel Hill and the wonderful people of North Carolina. For us, it is a privilege to be in North Carolina with the beautiful people, great food and fantastic scenery from mountains to beaches, and we always feel welcomed.

(P.S.: Later, we found some extra money and paid for the crabmeat in Mattamuskeet.)

David Amini, Washington, D.C., Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative

Statement of Ownership and Circulation Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685 **Title of Publication:** Carolina Country **Publication Number:** ISSN 0008-6746 **Filing Date:** September 23, 2013 **Issued** monthly, 12 times annually. **Subscription price** is $5.00 for members, $10.00 for non-members. Mailing address of office is P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306 or 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616, Wake County. **Publisher** is North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306. Editor is Michael E.C. Gery, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306. **Owner** is North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7306. There are no other owners or bondholders. The purpose, function and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months. **Circulation:** Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, also actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date. (September 2013). Total copies: Average 702,781 (September 731,330). **Paid Circulation:** Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales: None. Mail subscription: Average 692,079 (September 721,240). **Total Paid Circulation:** Average 692,079 (September 721,240). **Free Distribution** by mail carrier, or other means, samples complimentary and other free copies: Average 10,701 (September 10,090). **Total Distribution:** Average: 702,781 (September 731,330). **Copies** Not Distributed: Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing; Average: 0 (September: 0). Returns from news agents: None. **Total:** Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 702,781 (September 731,330).

Nanny's dressing

My mother-in-law, Beatrice "Nanny" Phillips Nall, was the second child in a family of nine siblings and the oldest daughter, so she started cooking at an early age. Back then, most of the foods were prepared without recipes; they were taste-tested.

Nanny always made the dressing at our family holiday gatherings as well as at other family and church functions. This went on for many years without any of us knowing the ingredients or amounts she used in her wonderful dressing recipe. Once, when Nanny was making a "pan" of dressing, her daughter, my sister-in-law Becky Forrest, measured the ingredients. Nanny is no longer with us, but we enjoyed her delicious dressing for many years.

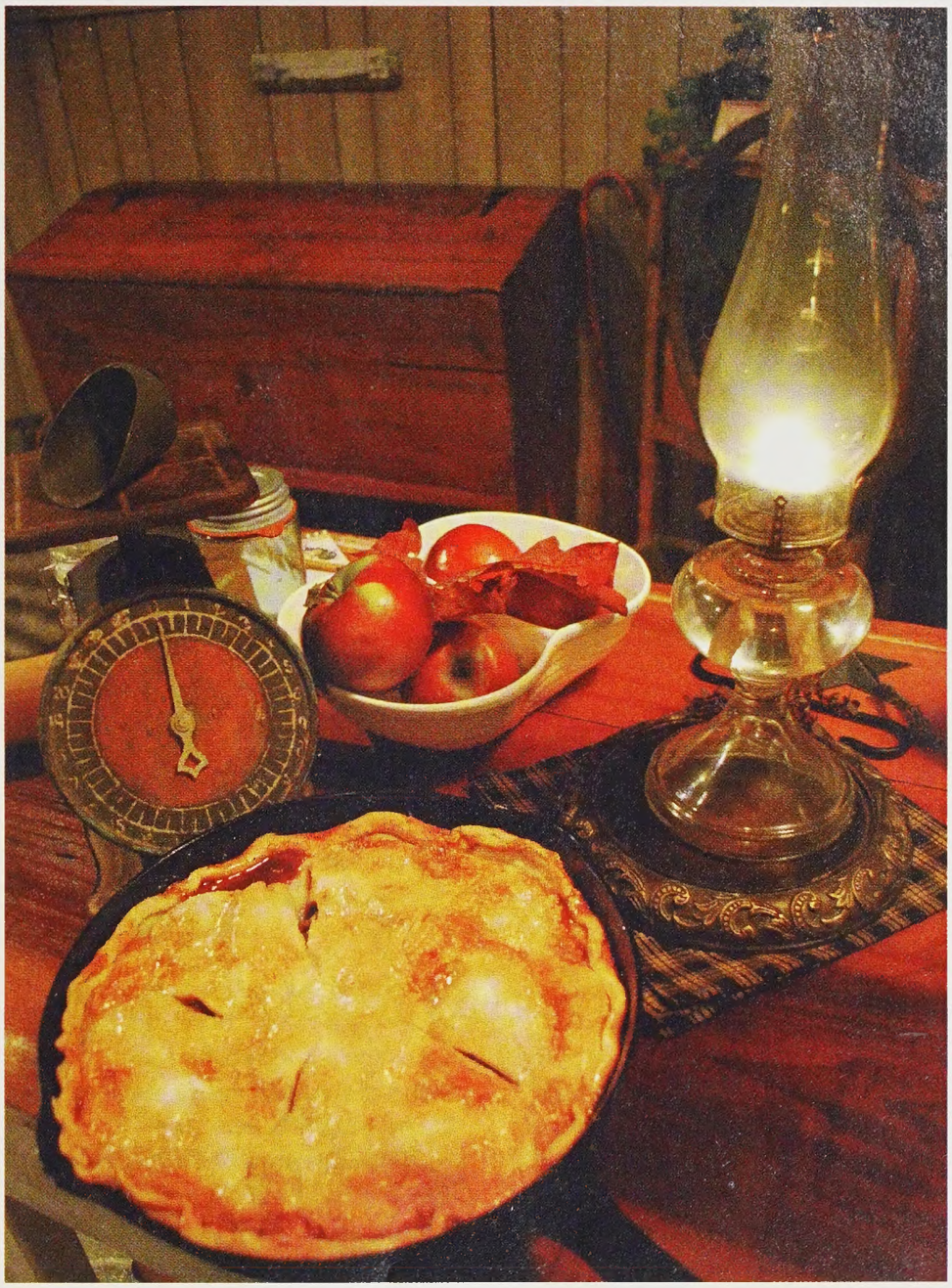
Because Becky measured out those ingredients, we can enjoy Nanny's melt-in-your-mouth concoction for generations to come. Nanny's recipe follows, so you and your family can enjoy it, too.

Virginia Nall, Moore County, Randolph EMC

- 2 cups chopped onion, sauteed in 1 stick margarine
- 6 cups corn bread, crumbled
- 6 cups biscuits, crumbled
- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- salt, to taste
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons sage
- 4 cups broth

Mix above ingredients together and let stand overnight. Next day, add 1 large package Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Stuffing mix and 6 cups broth. Mix well. Pour into 13-by-9-inch pan and bake at 450 degrees until brown around the edges.

Makes 2 pans



Thanks for everything

From the staff of Carolina Country.

(Photography by Gerald Yokely, Tobaccoville, a member of Surry-Yadkin EMC)

A hopper

I found this grasshopper sitting by a colorful fall leaf in Calabash.

Frank Ellison, Clemmons, EnergyUnited

Contact us

Website: carolinacountry.com
E-mail: editor@carolinacountry.com
Phone: (919) 875-3062
Fax: (919) 878-3970
Mail: 3400 Sumner Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27616
Find us on facebook at carolinacountry.com/facebook

Lucy and the other girls are in warmer quarters for the winter.

ADVENTURES OF THE HOMESTEAD REDHEAD

Putting on piggy pudge

By Laura Conner Massengale

Fall is off to a great start. This year, I planted my first ever fall garden. Within several weeks, I could already see little green faces popping out to greet me. There is nothing more rewarding or overflowing with life lessons as planting a seed, caring for it and enjoying the harvest it yields. Hopefully in the coming month, I will be enjoying a bountiful harvest of carrots, kale, spinach, broccoli, squash, bite-sized Brussels sprouts and purple cauliflower.

The impending cold weather brought many necessary projects to the homestead. The outside pigs, Houidini and Doyle, got to enjoy extra helpings of feed over the last few months. This ensures they have plenty of piggy pudge to keep them warm in the winter.

Keeping the chickens warm is also a concern for the cold months. To ensure none of the girls or my rooster, George Washington, suffer frostbite, I wrapped the open coops in plastic sheeting to help keep their body heat and warmth from the day's sunshine contained during the freezing nights. I made covered feeders out of PVC pipe to protect their feed from icy conditions. To make morning chores faster, I rearranged feeders and water buckets for easier access during the colder months. This redhead does not enjoy being out in the freezing weather!

Oliver, our mini piglet, came to live with us on the homestead several months ago. He is a four-pound ball of curiosity, mischief and snuggles. I am in the process of training him, and so far he can do several tricks, including "sit" and "up."

Oliver is mostly housebroken now and uses a litter box in his room to do his business. Although he gets in his fair share of trouble, like breaking my laptop or stealing food when no one is looking, his funny little personality and love of cuddles on the couch make up for his shenanigans. I hope one day to get him certified as a therapy pig.

The coming months bring the dreaded cold weather, but also hold steps to making my ultimate dream of living on a larger farm come true. It is such a blessing to be within reach of a lifelong goal.

Until next time …

This is Oliver, our mini piglet. Watch me give him his first bath on my blog: homesteadredhead.com

Laura Conner Massengale and her husband, Gabe, are members of Piedmont EMC and live in Orange County. From time to time we will publish her reports on their homesteading adventures. Follow Laura's blog at homesteadredhead.com

Actual size is 40.6 mm

The LAST 2013 American Silver Dollars?

Minting of 2013 American Silver Eagles Will Cease.

Millions of people collect the American Eagle Silver Dollar. In fact it's been the country's most popular Silver Dollar for over two decades. But there's one "secret" that many people do not know. It's actually against the law for the U.S. government to strike any more 2013 Silver Eagle coins after Dec 31st. That means that sometime in the next few months, the government will issue the order to stop the minting of these magnificent 2013 American Eagle Silver Dollars —and the dies will be destroyed forever!

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Don't wait until it's too late. Today you have the opportunity to secure these massive, hefty one full Troy ounce U.S. Silver Dollars in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated condition while our supplies remain. These legal tender United States Silver Dollars feature a nearly 100-year-old design of Lady Liberty striding confidently forward while draped in a U.S. flag, while the other side depicts a majestic U.S. eagle, thirteen stars, and an American shield. But the clock is ticking. Once production is stopped, no new 2013 American Silver Eagles will ever be struck again!

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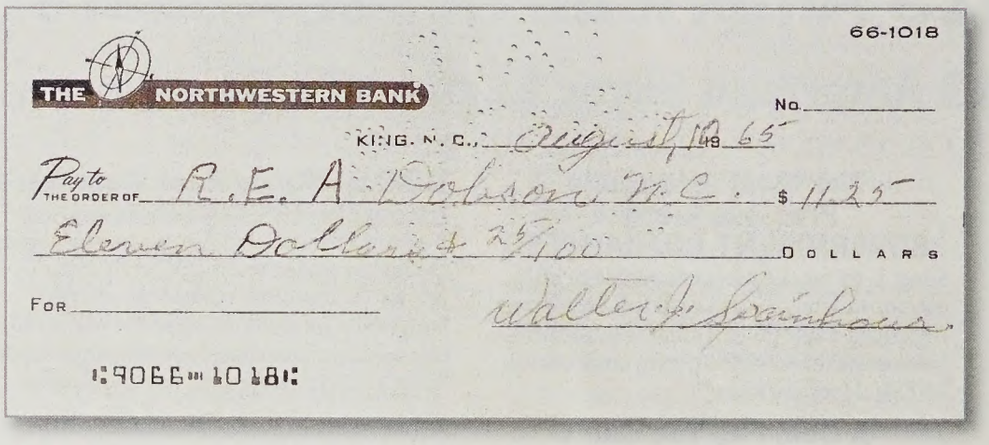
Lisa Taylor-Galizia

Goodness grows in Cedar Point

During her visit to Atlantic Beach last month for a North Carolina Agribusiness Council conference, Krystal Haden, deputy secretary at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, visited the Cedar Point produce market owned by Jerry Meadows, a board member of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative. The two shared farming stories, and she picked up a Bogue Sound watermelon.



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Mother found this 1965 payment to the Dobson REA [Surry-Yadin EMC] while looking through her old papers. She is 87 years old. I'll bet our next bill will be higher.

Kathy Joyce

Electricity vs. gasoline

I must say that I do enjoy your magazine and always read it. So here's a question: What is the cost of recharging electric autos? It seems as though it's cheaper than gasoline, but what's the data?

Thomas Daly

Editor's note: The fuel cost of driving a plug-in electric vehicle is roughly a fifth the cost per mile compared to gasoline. Members can learn more at goelectricdrive.com.

EPA rule would place stricter standards on emissions from new power plants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September revised its rule to regulate carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from new electric generating units. The proposed rule requires all future coal-fired generating plants to operate under significantly stricter emissions standards than existing facilities. Additionally, EPA set limits for larger natural gas generating units.

"North Carolina's electric cooperatives are better positioned than many in the industry to manage this situation," said Joe Brannan, CEO of the statewide organizations representing North Carolina's electric cooperatives. "The majority of current needs are being met with natural gas, emission–free nuclear generation and hydropower. However, the proposed regulations are still concerning. To meet these limits, new coal-fired generation must use commercially untested technologies, such as carbon capture and storage. In the foreseeable future, coal will no longer be a viable or economically sound choice. Fewer choices can become problematic down the road."

The EPA rule affects generating facilities not yet under construction. The agency is expected to address standards for existing plants by June 2014. EPA is empowered to set rules on CO_2 emissions under the federal Clean Air Act, and the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that EPA must regulate CO_2 and greenhouse gases as pollutants.

Responding to the EPA announcement, Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said, "Unlike President Obama's prior comments, the proposed regulation indicates the administration no longer supports an 'all of the above' strategy to address climate change. The Obama administration is gambling with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy. As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops are deeply concerned about maintaining affordable, reliable electricity."

Emerson urged the Obama administration to reconsider this proposal and focus on working with co-ops as they continue to reduce power plant emissions, develop renewable energy, increase efficiency and develop affordable new technologies.

State tax law changes will affect your cooperative beginning July 1, 2014

Changes in state tax law enacted by the General Assembly and Gov. Pat McCrory in July will affect taxes paid by families, individuals and businesses, including your electric cooperative.

Currently, electric cooperatives pay the state a "franchise tax" of 3.22% on their electricity sales. Because co-ops consider the franchise tax a cost of doing business, it is incorporated into your electric bill even though there is not a specific line item for it. What does appear on your power bill as a line item is the 3% state sales tax.

The new tax legislation eliminates the franchise tax on electric utilities, including co-ops, and increases the sales tax on electricity to 7%, effective July 1, 2014. For homeowners with an average monthly bill of $100, the net increase in their bill attributable to the tax law changes is expected to be less than $1.

The new tax legislation also eliminated the "state tax holiday" on buying efficient Energy Star-labeled appliances, effective in 2014.

For specific information on the 2013 state tax law and its impact on you or your business, consult a tax professional.

Hoke County school generates more energy than it uses

As the school year opened in August, the Hoke County Board of Education, Hoke County government and the community at large celebrated the opening of their newest facility, Sandy Grove Middle School, the nation's first "net-positive" leased public school. A "net-positive" facility is one that generates more energy than it consumes.

The new Sandy Grove Middle School in Hoke County is the most advanced facility from an energy perspective on Lumbee River EMC's entire system.

The building also qualified for the highest certification level in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED certification recognizes a building's design and performance in minimizing impact on ecosystems and water resources, promoting efficiency in water usage, using innovative energy systems and environmentally sustainable building materials, and enhancing indoor environment through air quality and access to daylight and views.

The 74,000 square-foot educational facility in Lumber Bridge includes a large photovoltaic solar array, geothermal heating and cooling systems, high efficiency lighting and additional spray foam insulation. Because of the large number of solar photovoltaic panels, the school is expected to save Hoke County Schools nearly $35 million over the next 40 years—$16 million in energy costs alone. Hoke County leases the building.

Lumbee River EMC worked closely with the school's architect, SFLA Architects and general contractor, MetCon Construction, since the beginning of the construction phase of the school to ensure the interconnect between the school and the co-op's distribution network was safe. Steven Hunt, Lumbee River EMC's president and CEO, said "Any time there is a generator that is being permanently connected to our distribution system, it is important that it be done in such a way that it can be safely operated not only by the school system, but our employees too. MetCon and SFLA have been excellent partners for us to work with in making sure this happened."

In addition to partnering on the interconnection of the school's solar system, LREMC also provided an incentive for the energy efficiency measures implemented in the school. "I believe it is fair to say that Sandy Grove Middle School is the most advanced facility that we serve in terms of energy efficiency," Hunt said.

Lumbee River EMC is the Touchstone Energy cooperative that serves more than 53,000 member accounts in Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties and parts of Cumberland County.

The final Energy Star sales tax holiday is Nov. 1–3

If you're wondering whether North Carolina retailers are honoring the Energy Star tax holiday in November, the answer is yes. The sales tax-free opportunity is on the weekend of Nov. 1–3 (between 12:01 a.m. Friday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday).

State sales tax will not be charged on the following qualifying products: clothes washers, freezers and refrigerators, central air conditioners and room air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers and programmable thermostats. The holiday does not apply to the rental of a product or the sale of a product for use in a trade or business.

Introduced in 2008, the tax-free weekend on appliances is intended to encourage the use of more energy-efficient products while saving consumers money. Legislation enacted by the General Assembly in July eliminates the tax-free holiday in 2014.

To learn more about products you may wish to buy, visit energystar.gov and click on "Energy Efficient Products" at top left of home page's menu. To find a store near you that carries those Energy Star products, put "Energy Star store locator" in the search field on the same website.

Try This!

Energy myths & facts

Myth: It takes less energy to have my thermostat maintain a comfortable temperature while I'm away than it does to have it heat up or cool down my house when I get home.

Fact: If you're going to be gone for more than a few hours, then it is more cost-effective to turn heat or air conditioning on once you return than it is to maintain a comfortable temperature while you're out.

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy, recommends adjusting your thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter by 8 degrees Fahrenheit while you're asleep or away from your house.

Myth: When leaving a room for a short period, it's better to leave lights on than to turn them off.

Fact: For incandescent bulbs, it's always better to turn the lights off. For fluorescent lights, there are some trade-offs. Fluorescent lights use slightly more energy on start-up, but the light needs to be off for only about a second to make up for that surge. The life of a fluorescent light is also shortened by frequent on-and-off switching. The actual break-even point depends on the cost of the lamp and the local electricity costs and is typically 5 to 15 minutes. However, a good guideline for fluorescent lighting is as follows: unless you're switching the lights every few minutes, it is generally cost-effective to turn the lights off whenever you leave the room.

Myth: I can save money simply by installing a programmable thermostat.

Fact: On their own, programmable thermostats do not make your heating or cooling system more efficient. Their money-saving value lies in their ability to, once properly programmed, automatically regulate the temperature inside your house to coincide with when you're there and when you're not. If you need help programming your thermostat, directions are usually available from the manufacturer's website.

Myth: When I turn off electronics (like my TV, game console, or computer) they stop drawing power from the outlet.

Fact: Even when turned off, most modern electronics consume a small amount of electricity if they're still plugged in. Chargers for mobile devices also consume electricity if plugged in, even when they are not actively charging the device. This wasted energy, called "phantom load," accounts for as much as 10 percent of a home's total electric use, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The solution: unplug your electronics when you've finished using them. Using a power strip can help you conveniently unplug multiple devices at once, while newer, "smart" power strips can automatically cut off phantom loads on their own.

Myth: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) take forever to reach full brilliance, have inadequate light quality or unpleasant color, and make no difference on my utility bill.

Fact: As with many products, CFLs vary in quality. Color and brightness differ across manufacturers, and some bulbs simply work better than others. Looking for the Energy Star symbol ensures that you're purchasing a high-quality product. Also, be sure to install CFLs in fixtures that remain on for long periods, or that you use often, to get the maximum energy savings out of your bulbs. In addition, specialty CFLs are available for applications such as spotlighting or bathroom vanity fixtures.

Myth: Mercury from CFLs poses a serious risk to the environment.

Fact: On the contrary, CFLs actually prevent the release of mercury into the environment by reducing the electricity needed from power plants. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, about half of electricity in the U.S. is generated from coal. EPA estimates that coal combustion for power plants releases roughly 400 times the mercury into the environment than the cumulative mercury contribution from land-filled CFLs, assuming that no CFLs are recycled. (Many home building supply stores have recycling drop-off points.) However, it is still important to dispose of burned-out bulbs and clean up broken bulbs properly. Learn how at www.lamprecycle.org.

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CAPITOL HILL DAY

Sponsored by their electric cooperatives, North Carolina students on the Youth Tour to Washington visit Capitol Hill

Each year one of the focal points of the Youth Tour to Washington, sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives, is a day spent on Capitol Hill. Students representing cooperatives meet and ask questions of their Congressional representatives. They also tour the Capitol Building and witness their government in action. It was a busy day last June with a full agenda.

Congressman Mike McIntyre of Lumberton challenges the Youth Tourists to have the drive and determination to meet their dreams.

Padraic Hohenstein of Hertford, representing Albemarle EMC, photographs Senator Richard Burr as he addresses the Youth Tour delegation.

Youth Tourists gathered on the northeast steps of the Capitol for a picture at the end of the day.

7:30 am Arrived at the Capitol.

"I liked looking at how big the actual Capitol Hill is! That was cool." —Ken Bass, Youth Tourist from Lincolnton representing Rutherford EMC.

8:00 am Discussed with members of Congress issues important to Youth Tourists. Ten of North Carolina's 13 congressional representatives visited the students in the Cannon House Office Building.

"My favorite part was being able to see people that represent your district, your state, and being able to talk with them and ask them any questions. They were really relatable." —Jordon Edwards, Youth Tourist from Ennice representing Blue Ridge EMC.

"The group that you are here with is one of the best groups that you could ever imagine. They invest back in the community. They invest truly in their communities through memberships." —Congressman Mark Meadows, Highlands, who represents portions of French Broad EMC, Haywood EMC, Rutherford EMC and Blue Ridge EMC service areas.

Noon Journeyed through the secure underground tunnels to the Capitol.

"People get lost all the time. I spent 42 minutes when I was an intern once pushing this cart with a projector on it all through the subbasement level. I was totally lost." —Cyrus Artz, energy legislative assistant for Congresswoman Virginia Foxx.

12:30 pm Spoke with Sen. Richard Burr and Shaniqua McClendon, Sen. Kay Hagan's education legislative assistant.

"This is always a great group I look forward to on an annual basis getting together with. Hopefully it's been educational and fun." —Sen. Richard Burr of Winston-Salem.

2:30 pm Toured the Capitol.

"The statues were really cool. I love photography so I took a picture of every single one." —Padraic Hohenstein, Youth Tourist from Hertford representing Albemarle EMC, who took more than 4,000 pictures on the trip.

3:30 pm Observed Congress in action in the House and Senate galleries.

"It was really interesting because when we got to see the Senate gallery it was watching our government work, which is really cool." —Emily Murphy, Youth Tourist from Stallings representing Union Power Cooperative.

4:30 pm Photographed on the Capitol steps, then boarded the bus back to the hotel.

"I thought that it was awesome that we got to go into the actual Capitol instead of just looking on the outside. We actually got to look from the inside and see how everything works. That was my favorite part of the trip." —Yesel Trillo-Ordonez, Youth Tourist from Jacksonville representing Jones-Onslow EMC.

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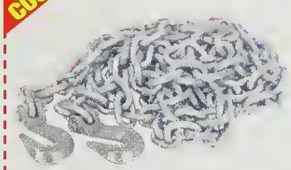

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You Feel At Home

The Ronald McDonald House in Greenville helps families whose children are receiving treatment at local medical facilities.

By Lindsey Listrom

Tyler Gordon, with his mother and stepdad, got a game ball from Dan Allen of Four County EMC when the electric co-ops hosted the family at an ECU game this season.

Tyler Gordon is a typical 12-year-old boy in Gates County who loves his family, God, friends and sports. He's also battling a rare form of testicular cancer.

Since April, he and his family have crisscrossed eastern North Carolina traveling to doctor visits and surgeries. In August he completed 23 straight days of radiation. Every morning, with his hands raised overhead, a machine scanned over his back and belly delivering radioactive, cell-killing rays. He now endures weekly chemotherapy treatments at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, which is nearly two hours away from his Gatesville home.

The treatments are exhausting and nauseating. "The first couple of weeks were especially rough," said Tyler's mom, Cathie Eason. "He was throwing up, and his mouth was so sore he could hardly eat."

Commuting home is out of the question, so Tyler and his mom stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina while he receives treatments. The House provides a temporary, home away from home for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment from area medical facilities. "It's been a blessing," Cathie said. "The staff is so supportive. They are genuinely concerned about the people in this house, and you feel safe. You feel at home."

This fall, North Carolina's electric cooperatives invited Tyler and his family to attend an East Carolina University football game. Tyler received a signed game ball at mid-field in the first quarter, and the family sat in VIP seats. A video featuring the family ran on the jumbo-screen during halftime and later on the coach's TV show. Cathie said the game was a bright spot for Tyler, who dutifully reported to the hospital for chemo the morning after the game.

She is grateful for the welcoming and comfortable feel of the House, and for the flexibility to easily travel back and forth from the hospital. "It's hard as a mom, not being able to fix it, when your child is going through something like this."

At home in Gatesville, the small community has rallied around Tyler. They've attended fundraisers, and "he's on everybody's prayer list," Cathie said. "Tyler is a good kid. Everybody knows him, and when they heard what was going on, they just wanted to help."

Cathie says Tyler (both shown at right) never complains, and she's proud of the strength, humility and spirituality he has shown through his illness. He recently started seventh grade on-schedule with his classmates at Central Middle School. His treatments continue through May 16, 2014. Until that day, the Easons will continue their journey in Greenville, staying at the Ronald McDonald House while Tyler makes strides towards recovery.

To see the video that ran during the ECU game, visit CarolinaCountry.com.

Lindsey Listrom is a communication specialist with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Electric co-ops lend their support

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are longtime supporters of the House, which in 2012 served families from 46 North Carolina counties. In 26 years, the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina has housed over 12,000 families representing more than 25,000 admissions.

Mike Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC based in Dudley, is the president of the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina board of directors. "The House provides a vital service in the eastern part of the state and makes a huge difference for families facing difficult times," Davis said. "North Carolina's electric cooperatives are proud to support them."

This year, a second Greenville-based Ronald McDonald House opened inside the new James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital at Vidant Medical Center. This facility, known as the Ronald McDonald House at Vidant Medical Center, is available to any family with a child receiving treatment at Maynard Children's Hospital, even those on an outpatient basis. The space features a 2,500-square-foot common area where families can gather and meet others going through similar challenges, as well as six rooms for overnight guests. Just steps away from children's hospital rooms, this much-needed place of respite is complete with a kitchen and dining area, playroom, outdoor patio, private bathroom with a shower, serenity lounge, computer room and laundry facilities.

For more information about the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina, call (252) 847-5435 or visit: rmhenc.org.

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Dhanraj Emanuel

What is black, warty, musky and fetches $800 per pound wholesale?

The black truffle, a mushroom delicacy, is finding hospitable ground in North Carolina

By Carla Burgess

It looks and tastes nothing like your typical edible mushroom. And you won't find it in shrink-wrapped cartons on the produce aisle. Named for the region of France where it grows naturally, the gourmet *Périgord* black truffle is elite. A pound is worth about $800 wholesale, and the supply of this robust-flavored mushroom has yet to meet the worldwide demand. Many chefs and fine diners can't resist the black truffle's allure, nor can some entrepreneurs, many of whom sink their fortunes into farming this delicacy. Some of those farmers are members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

Franklin Garland of Hillsborough (a member of Piedmont EMC, shown at left) was the first person in the state to experiment with truffles, and he is widely credited with producing the first commercial supply of black truffles in the U.S. in 1993. A truffle is the fruit of a fungus that grows only in a symbiotic relationship with the roots of certain species of trees like hazelnuts and some oaks, including English, downy and holly oaks. The fruit contains spores that help the fungus reproduce. Black truffles look a bit like homely potatoes, with black warty skins. They grow underground, as deep as 6 inches down.

Black truffles have a unique taste that is married to a pungent, musky aroma. These combine to create a gastronomic sensation that is wholly unique. People describe it as nutty, fruity, musky or earthy. Its texture also sets it apart from other mushrooms. Where traditional commercial mushrooms are spongy, a fresh truffle has a crispy, crunchy bite. Truffles can be served fresh or lightly cooked in sweet or savory dishes.

Garland had been growing hothouse tomatoes with his brother in the 1970s. In 1979, he read an article about how the French had learned to successfully cultivate the black truffle, which has become scarce in the wild, by inoculating the roots of host trees with truffle spores, then planting the trees in orchards. Their work would ultimately open the door to would-be truffle growers around the globe. Garland decided to give it a go, ordering some inoculated trees from California. He planted them in 1980 and dug his first truffle 12 years later. He markets his black truffles, which are in season during winter, mostly through a broker. But he also sells locally to chefs and foodies. In 1997, Garland decided to start a commercial nursery, selling trees he inoculates himself. He sells about 30,000 each year.

As seen on TV

Many of today's North Carolina truffle growers got their starter trees from Franklin Garland. Jane Morgan Smith of King, Stokes County, was among them. She and her husband planted some truffle-inoculated trees on their farm in 2000 and harvested their first truffle in 2006. It typically takes four to six years before trees produce truffles. Smith sells her fresh truffles to local chefs and also markets a line of homemade truffle products—truffle butter, truffle honey, truffle salt and truffled white chocolate.

Smith and Garland attracted the attention of Martha Stewart, who came to the Smith farm in the winter of 2007. Stewart tagged along while Smith and her specially trained truffle hunter, a border collie named Friday, searched the orchard. When ripe, the black truffle emits a pungent, musky odor that attracts burrowing animals, which eat the truffle

Wild sows are particularly attracted to the scent, which mimics the chemical that male boars produce to attract a mate.

and disperse the spores. Wild sows are particularly attracted to the scent, which mimics the chemical that male boars produce to attract a mate. Domesticated pigs were traditionally used in Europe to root out truffles, but in most places they've been usurped by dogs, who also have superb noses, are easier to handle and not interested in stealing the goods.

After the hunt at the Smith farm, Franklin Garland appeared on Martha Stewart's TV show, showing the domestic diva how to make a truffle omelet. Fresh truffles have a short shelf life—within two weeks, the flavor has gone. Homegrown truffles can make it to America's plate much faster than imports, which may take 48 hours or more to reach chefs here. Though the fungus is perennial, truffles are an annual crop. They begin forming in spring and ripen from late November to early March in North Carolina.

It's hard work

Jane Morgan Smith, who is the director of the North American Truffle Growers Association, estimates that at least 75 growers have planted orchards in North Carolina at one time or another. But not all of them have produced or are producing truffles. Garland says the failure rate is high, mostly because would-be truffle farmers neglect their young trees. "It's hard work," he says. "The care of the trees is critical the first few years." The black truffle likes the temperate climate in most of North Carolina, anywhere the ground doesn't freeze hard. Truffles thrive in loamy or well-drained clay soils, which must be amended with lime to reach a very high pH (between 7.9 and 8.1).

The biggest threat to growers is the Eastern filbert blight, which has ransacked European hazelnuts, the staple tree of many orchards. Drought and excessive heat can also threaten young orchards, and small burrowing mammals like squirrels, skunks, chipmunks and voles may devour a crop. Smith says she has harvested only 10 pounds of black truffles since 2006. She'd hoped for 10 times that amount by now.

Aiming for the Big Time

Garland says 50 to 75 pounds per acre would be optimum truffle production—one tree produces no more than two pounds per year. Few other farms in North Carolina are coming close. At least two entrepreneurs want to step up the game. One of them is Susan Alexander of Southern Pines, who has planted 21,300 trees on 150 acres. The other is Patrick Fiorentino (a member of Surry-Yadkin EMC), who has in essence plopped a high-tech laboratory right next to his orchard in Dobson.

Fiorentino has planted 5,000 trees on 10 acres, which he calls his "proof of concept" orchard. He doesn't hesitate to yank out trees to confirm the presence and degree of fungal development, and he recommends that growers scrutinize any trees they buy that are advertised as being inoculated with black truffles. Fiorentino is heavily invested—he has bought DNA sequencing equipment and pays a full-time orchard manager. He is scrutinizing the genetic makeup of both the fungi and potential host trees. His hope is to develop a "cookbook" method for truffle growing. "I intend to be the Tyson Chicken/Reynolds Tobacco of truffles," he says.

Alexander has equally grand designs—she says she aims to be the biggest and highest-producing truffle orchard in the country. While she waits for her trees to bear fruit, she buys truffles and makes and sells gourmet products, mostly notably truffled popcorn. Alexander has sunk millions into her enterprise, and says she can afford to fail.

Others aren't as lucky. Jack Ponticelli ran a successful business in New Jersey selling hot-air balloon rides. In 2000, he pulled up stakes and bought some farmland in North Carolina. He has two orchards on the Surry-Yadkin EMC electric system, one in Surry County and the other in Yadkin County. He and Garland are minor business partners. Ponticelli says he spent his life savings planting close to 15,000 hazelnuts and oaks he bought from Garland. He's lost many trees to deer, drought and cold weather, and some 60 percent of his hazelnuts are now succumbing to blight. He expects the affected ones to survive only about two more years, but should still be able to harvest some truffles in the meantime. "This was supposed to be my retirement," says Ponticelli. "I hope I live more than two years." Jokes aside, Ponticelli believes he'll recover some of his investment and he hopes to eventually help mentor beginning truffle growers, pointing out the pitfalls. "I do believe that truffles could replace tobacco in North Carolina, eventually."

Carla Burgess is a Carolina Country contributing writer who lives in Raleigh.

Go to our website to see a video of Martha Stewart visiting North Carolina truffle farms and making a truffle omelet: CarolinaCountry.com

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The Bell Island Fishing Pier

by Donna Campbell Smith

This is my grandfather, Tom Burgess ("Papa Tom"), who in the 1950s kept his boat in a boathouse near the Bell Island Pier. With him this time were friends of the family, Ed Jackson and his daughter Jean.

Bell Island Fishing Pier was built in Hyde County by the Civilian Conservation Corps soon after the establishment of Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge in 1932. The gravel road leading to the pier is the only land access to the 16,000 acres of marshland, forest and waterways that make up the refuge.

I began fishing with my mother on the pier over 60 years ago. We called it the Rose Bay pier back then. Mama would get me up early in the morning while it was still dark outside. Packed in the car with fishing gear, coolers with ice and Coca Colas, and the picnic basket, Daddy drove us from our home in Plymouth down Hwy. 32 to Hwy. 99, a long, long way—or so it seemed when I was a little girl. We turned off 99 and worked our way on country roads into Hyde County to reach Hwy. 264, then drove east until we reached the entrance to the wildlife refuge and the long road leading to the pier. The sun would just be peeking up to light the sky. As a girl I would sit on the pier next to a hole made by storms that washed out some of the boards. I fished through that hole with a drop line, while Mama stood right next to me and cast out with her rod and reel from the end of the pier.

My mother often filled her cooler with croakers, spot, speckled trout, flounder and sometimes a nice big puppy drum. Her favorite bait was shrimp. She always saved one or two small fish for cut bait. When the grandchildren went with her they often supplied some earthworms they dug themselves. Occasionally she used bloodworms, but she favored shrimp. She didn't buy "bait shrimp," because she was sure fish preferred the fresh shrimp sold for human consumption.

As I got older it became evident to me that "going fishing" didn't always mean catching fish. Mama didn't mind catching nothing. She was happy to stand there all day, "fishing" sunup 'til sundown. Her hope never wavered that the "big one" was out there, and one day she'd catch it.

I didn't have that kind of patience. So, I stopped going along once I was old enough to stay home alone. Then I had children of my own. They delighted in going with their grandmother to fish at Rose Bay. She taught them well, and they still love fishing.

Even though I didn't care to fish if the fish didn't bite, I did learn some good life-lessons on the Bell Island Fishing Pier. I learned to love the isolation and beauty of our North Carolina marshlands. I also learned the value of being patient. And most of all I learned to hope, because no matter how little the catch is today, there is always a bigger one waiting to be caught tomorrow.

Contributing writer Donna Campbell Smith lives in Franklin County. Learn about her at donnacampbellsmith.com

New life for an old pier

The pier has been damaged many times by various storms. Hurricane Floyd destroyed it in September 1999. It was renovated in 2003 only to have Hurricane Isabel take it out again later that same year. Finally, Hurricane Irene in 2011 forced the pier closed.

Volunteers led by Dr. John Hale, with support from U.S. Fish & Wildlife employee Larry Boomer, spent 400 hours over three days working on the pier to make it safe and accessible once again. Bell Island Fishing Pier now juts 1,000 feet out into Rose Bay, with a T crossing the end to give fishermen and women more elbow room for casting out to catch that "big one." Several bait-cutting stations have been added, and there is a gravel parking lot and portable toilet. There are no trash cans, and no caretaker is on duty. Visitors take their trash when they leave.

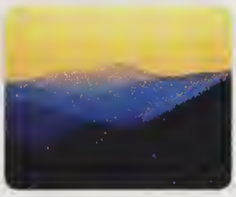
Recently the Nature Conservancy and Fish & Wildlife collaborated to construct an oyster reef on either side of the pier to help with erosion and provide a habitat for oysters.

The pier is open every day from dawn to dusk. A North Carolina Recreational Fishing License is required to fish on the pier. Most of the local bait and tackle shops in the area sell the licenses.

Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge is located on the north shore of Pamlico Sound east and west of the village of Swan Quarter. The Bell Island Fishing Pier is at the end of a two-mile long gravel road off Hwy. 264 two miles west of Swan Quarter, about 60 miles east of Washington.

▲ *Bell Island Pier runs 1,000 feet into Rose Bay at Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. A year ago, volunteers completed rebuilding it after Hurricane Irene forced it closed in August 2011. (Photo by Michael E.C. Gery)*

CAROLINA COUNTRY SCENES photo contest



Send us your favorite photo (North Carolina people or scenes) and the story that goes with it. We will pay $50 for each one that we publish in our Carolina Country Scenes gallery in the February 2014 magazine. Judges will select more for a new "Photo of the Month" feature and we'll pay $50 for those.

RULES:

Deadline: December 10, 2013.

One entry per household.

Digital photos should be a minimum of 1200 by 1800 pixels. Prints a minimum of 4 x 6 inches.

Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and e-mail address or phone number.

If you want your print returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)

We retain reprint rights.

We will post on our websites more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)

SEND TO:

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THE 2013 NORTH CAROLINA 4-H CONGRESS
CITIZENSHIP TRACK

In June, when summer was in full swing, more than 245 4-H'ers and adults from 53 counties attended North Carolina 4-H Congress and participated in the Citizenship Track. These delegates were encouraged to develop their citizenship skills as they participated in workshops taught by the North Carolina Civic Education Consortium and participated in activities led by the Center for Creative Leadership. Delegates who attended also had the opportunity to hear dynamic speakers who encourage and promote youth advocacy. Through various conference sessions and facilitated discussions, delegates learned and shared information related to advocacy, citizenship and public policy and learned about being an educated citizen. Hands-on workshops, distinguished speakers and open discussion during the Citizenship Track help these young people discover how government impacts their everyday life. The event culminated with youth delegates in the citizenship track traveling to the Legislative Building in Raleigh to meet with their elected officials.

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This is Lady with my sister, Shannon, and me.

That Night With Lady

For Mom and Dad: a memory and a message of thanks

By Jamie Fulk

In January 2013, my dad, Barry Fulk, retired from his job at a textile mill in Winston-Salem. He retired as a supervisor, with 44 years and four months at the same company, at positions that included machine mechanic and welder. This type of loyalty is unheard of these days. I am sure there were days he wanted to quit and other days that were the best of his life. But he stuck it out through layoffs, downsizing, company buy-outs, and even a few fires.

He had worked at the mill a year longer than I am old. As I think back on all he has done for me and our family, I think back to a day 30 years ago in King, Stokes County, where he and my mom, Carolyn, live to this day. When I was just 14 years old I had a special dog named Lady. Lady was a mixed breed herding dog who was extremely smart and loved me like no other animal could. She was solid black and weighed about 40 pounds. Lady was my girl, and I loved her just as much as she loved me.

Lady had a certain spot on our dirt gravel road where each day she waited on me to get off the bus. It was a ritual for us to meet every afternoon. One afternoon I got off the bus and realized immediately that Lady was not there. I began to yell her name over and over. A sickening feeling began to come over me. The longer I went without seeing her, the more frantic I became. As I walked the dirt road home, I looked desperately for her, and I knew in my heart something was wrong.

When my dad got home from his job at the textile plant, I was standing in our driveway waiting on him. He could not

"As I walked the dirt road home, I knew in my heart something was wrong."

get the door open fast enough for me to tell him that Lady was missing. He listened and said maybe she would be home later. I was satisfied for a few minutes, but I knew something was wrong. As dark began to fall, my dad could see the concern in my eyes and asked me if I wanted to ride around in the car and look for Lady. Of course I said yes.

As we rode down some of the nearby roads, my dad drove real slowly, and I yelled out "Lady! Lady!" over and over. All of a sudden I heard Lady yelp. I yelled at my dad, "Stop!" I bolted out of the car and ran toward the railroad track, and there lay Lady. She had been hit by a car, and it was bad, real bad. Her right rear leg was severely mangled with open lacerations. I had never seen such an injury, and I was nearly gasping for breath. I yelled for my dad, and he pulled the car off the road and ran over. Dad immediately knew it was bad, too. He took off his thick welder's jacket and laid it on the ground, and then we carefully moved her over onto it. Lady was yelping and crying. She was in pain.

Dad carried her to the back seat of the car with blood going everywhere. He didn't care that the car was getting all messed up. I got in the back seat with Lady, and Dad mashed the gas pedal to the floor. We went back to our house where Dad ran in and told my mom to find a 24-hour vet. Mom tore through the thick Winston-Salem phonebook frantically and found a vet 25 miles away in Winston-Salem.

Dad and Mom hopped back in the car with me and drove the 25 miles to Winston-Salem. Dad drove as though a person was in the back seat dying. We got to the vet, and they were waiting on us. Dad scooped up Lady and took her in to the table. When the vet looked at her leg and took an X-ray, I read his face as though it were an open book. His facial expression said "This is serious." He turned and looked at us and said at the very least her leg needed to be amputated, and there were internal injuries as well. In other words, she needed to be put down.

I knew the whole trip down there that she had life-threatening injuries, and that this was a possibility. But that didn't make it any easier. I knew in my heart that it was the right decision. I loved her as much as I loved some people I knew. Finally I agreed to let my friend go. It was hard. I cried and gasped for air as I lay on her and told her good-bye. My mom tried to comfort me as moms do. She wanted to make Lady better, but she couldn't.

Even though this was more than 30 years ago, I have never forgotten the love my dad and mom showed when Lady got hurt. They had little to no extra money, but they pulled out all the stops to try and help Lady. Textile workers have never been rich people who had money to throw around. That night I am sure they spent money on Lady that took months to make up. Twenty-four-hour vets are expensive now, and were then, too. My dad and mom didn't care. They were only worried about me and Lady.

Thanks, Dad and Mom, for everything, especially for trying to save Lady. Congratulations, Dad, on your retirement. You and Mom deserve all the good things that come your way.

My parents, Barry and Carolyn Fulk

Jamie Fulk and his wife, Teresa, live in Morehead City and are members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative.

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Auditing Energy

Small measures add up to real savings

By Magen Howard

Just about every home could benefit from an energy audit. An audit can help you assess how much energy your home uses and evaluate what measures you can take to improve efficiency.

If you are interested in specific recommendations, consider contacting a professional home energy auditor. He or she can use a variety of techniques and their audits often use equipment such as blower doors, which measure the extent of leaks in the building envelope, and infrared cameras, which reveal hard-to-detect areas of air infiltration and missing insulation.

Finding a local professional

First, contact your electric cooperative and ask if they offer free or discounted energy audits. If not, you can hire a professional energy auditor, such as a certified Home Energy Rater. To find a local Home Energy Rater, put this shortened URL in your browser: goo.gl/0XNwrN. It will take you directly to the EnergyStar.gov rater locator page.

DIY audits

But if you are really eager to get started on your own, it's possible to perform a simple DIY audit yourself. Does your home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If so, then it probably leaks air.

Look for damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, apply caulk and weather stripping. Also check electrical outlets and recessed canister lights. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as $2, and you can fix up your canister lights by caulking around the edges. Also look where walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

Insulation needs by zip code

Next, peek into the attic and inspect the crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation—how much you need depends on your home and local climate. To check by zip code, visit ornl.gov and type in "Zip Insulation Program".

Photo courtesy of GE

This energy saving, 60-watt LED bulb has the familiar look of an incandescent bulb while providing a crisp white light that brings out more vibrant colors and patterns.

Your home vs. other homes

You can also use Energy Star's Home Energy Yardstick to compare your home's energy efficiency to similar homes. You'll get a score (on a scale of 1 to 10) and gain insight into how much of your energy use is related to heating and cooling, versus other uses such as hot water and appliances. You'll also be guided toward recommendations for improvements to "up your score." You'll enter some basic information (such as zip code, your home's square footage, and number of occupants) along with your last 12 months of utility bills. If you don't have all the bills, ask your cooperative for a 12-month summary. Visit EnergyStar.gov and type "yardstick" in its search field.

Look to the light(s)

Finally, assess your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design and affordability. They cost more upfront, but you'll make your money back in less than nine months. Purchase an Energy Star-rated CFL—it typically will last 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb producing the same amount of light.

As far as LEDs bulbs go, an Energy Star-rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last for 25 years. The up-front cost is much more than even a CFL, but LED prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

Sources: EnergySavers.gov, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, EnergyStar.gov

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Children can keep track of feeding times by making a chart with stars and stickers.

Pet Ownership

Teaching kids how to be responsible for furry friends

Sometimes it can feel like your children will never stop asking for a pet, especially as Christmas draws near and the topic of gifts comes up. As any pet owner will tell you, having pets has pros and cons. But as far as pros go, pets offer love and companionship. And having children care for one can teach them accountability, pride and responsibility.

Teaching children interactively how to care for their new-found friend helps them understand the work involved. Here are some tips to help ensure the pet gets the best care possible and the child is engaged from the start.

Teach animal needs

Pets need many of the same things humans need, like food, water and shelter. Help kids understand that to keep their new friend healthy, they need to help provide these needs and that certain rules must be followed.

Create a feeding chart

Develop a pet feeding schedule with your children so they understand the importance of specific times for feeding. A weekly chart on the wall can help them keep track of meals. It's important for them to participate—they can decorate a dry erase board with animal stickers, glue-on stars and brightly colored markers.

Make a special pet spot

Just like their owners, pets love to have their own special area to relax. Let the kids pick out the accessories for their new friend—be it a hot pink puppy bed or coastal-inspired sea décor for the fish bowl.

Emphasize walks and attention

From daily affection to regular exercise, have your children agree to a time to play and interact with their pet. Be sure to also designate regular times to take the dog outside to urinate, as well as get some exercise.

Practice pet ownership

Ask neighbors or relatives if you can pet-sit one of their pets for a weekend. With your child or children in charge of taking care of the animal, they'll see firsthand whether they are up to the task. You will also be able to gauge if getting a pet is a proper decision for you as a family.

Make cleaning a routine

A healthy, clean environment is a must for pets. Divide responsibilities and enlist each child with different duties, such as making sure food and water bowl areas, cages and litter boxes are maintained and cleaned. For cats, using a product such as Arm & Hammer Ultra Last Clumping Cat Litter can lengthen the time spent changing litter because it is long-lasting and has odor destroyers. There are also special odor-absorbing pads for puppies and adult dogs available. For other tips on cat and dog care, visit ultralastlitter.com.

—FamilyFeatures.com

Financial 'holiday hangover'

These smart moves help you keep expenses down

The holidays are right around the corner, and if you're like most people, travel and festivities can put quite a dent in your wallet. But it doesn't have to be that way. With the right planning now, you can avoid paying for the holidays well into next year.

By Madeline Keimig

Is your family heading off for a winter adventure this holiday season? Look for good deals now, instead of waiting until December to book flights and rooms. And remember you can save substantially on travel if you are willing to go during off-peak times.

Here are some smart moves to help control your expenses and keep you from racking up a lot of holiday-related debt.

Consider how you will get there

If you're not celebrating locally, try to determine the most economical way to get to your destination. Can you drive, or is it essential that you fly? For example, if you have to transport three or more people, driving a distance of 6–8 hours or less might save a significant amount of money. If you need to fly, consider purchasing your plane tickets as early as you can. Over the past few years, airline tickets have risen as the holidays approached.

Gifts, gifts and more gifts?

Let's be honest: Do you overspend on gifts? Talk with your friends and family about cutting back this year—perhaps through a group activity, such as a "Secret Santa," where there's a set budget and each person buys for just one other person. Some families agree to buy only for children. Or set a limit of one gift each. But if you want to keep exchanging gifts, buy now if they are on sale. Generally, the closer you get to Christmas, the fewer sales there are.

Pay cash for presents

Paying for your purchases in cash can help avoid staggering credit card bills (paying interest makes the gift cost more) after you've rung in the New Year. Using cash will also make you more aware of what you are spending. Just remember to get your gift receipts so you have a record.

Consider *when* you'll celebrate the holidays

It's not for everyone, but some people celebrate the holidays at different times. For example, they buy gifts for loved ones at post-holiday sales and celebrate Christmas (as far as exchanging gifts) a few days later or on New Year's Day. If your gift is a family vacation, you can save substantially on travel during off-peak times, and your destination likely will be less crowded, too.

Post-holiday sales

Following the same "plan ahead" theme, it's not too early to think about the 2014 holidays. Take advantage of sales after Christmas. Buy holiday décor items you need and gifts that will keep until next year for loved ones.

Doreen Friel is a marketing communications professional who produces materials for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Autumn decor

Ways to bring the beauty of fall into your home

Fall in North Carolina is a particularly beautiful season when it comes to home decor. This season is all about celebrating nature's bounty, and there is an abundance of colorful items found outdoors that you can use indoors as decoration. Here are some ideas to bring the cozy charm of autumn into your home.

This centerpiece features trendy hues to add pizzazz to your table.

Pull in nature

Those pretty pumpkins and gourds of every shape and color make inexpensive additions that brighten any tabletop or mantle. Or place multi-colored squashes on a bale of hay outside the front door for a display the whole neighborhood can enjoy.

Try transitional pieces

Situated right before the busy holiday season, some fall styles can be eased into both decorating schemes. Rich, wine-colored berries and bittersweet vine arrangements look wonderful for fall and winter, as do pinecones.

Add new color trends

According to color experts, fall 2013 is filled with vibrant purples, bright blues and dazzling greens. Watch as plum hues pop when paired with the traditional fall foliage of burnt orange, copper, gold and brown.

Add some glam

This candle ring project features lively, on-trend hues to add some glamour to your family's table.

—FamilyFeatures.com

Candle ring

Some experience necessary
Crafting time: 3–5 hours

Supplies and tools

4 bags of decorative gourds
2 Styrofoam brand foam rings
1 package floral picks
Spray paints: Purple Short Cuts; Gray Primer; Gloss Varnish; Krylon Purple, Island Splash and Peekaboo Blue
Bottled paints in desired colors
Paintbrush
Glitter
Glue
Black gems filler
Pillar candle
Glass hurricane container
1 roll purple tulle
Feather picks

1. Spray foam rings with Purple Short Cuts spray paint. Let dry.
2. Paint gourds in desired colors, some spray-painted, some brush-painted. If the gourd is orange or yellow, spray it with primer first, then the color. Otherwise, the orange or yellow will bleed through.
3. Break the ends off the floral picks if too long, dip both ends in glue then insert one end into the gourd and the other end into the Styrofoam ring, nesting closely together. Let dry.
4. Place glass hurricane inside the ring first to determine how to position the gourds. Remove the hurricane before proceeding to the next step.
5. Spray the finished ring with gloss varnish, sprinkle with glitter while still wet, and then spray again with gloss varnish. Let dry.
6. Add small tufts of tulle to fill any holes between gourds and to give a softer look around vase.
7. Embellish with several feather picks; glue in place.
8. Return hurricane to center, fill with black gems. Insert pillar.

For other fall decorating ideas and projects, visit Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores' website at joann.com.

WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS?

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by Nov. 8 with your name, address and the name of your electric cooperative.

Online: carolinacountry.com

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Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our December issue, will receive $25. To see the answer before you get your December magazine, go to "Where Is This?" on our website carolinacountry.com

October winner

More than 230 of you, from at least a dozen different cooperatives, recognized the October magazine's photo looking east on the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge over Alligator River (also the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway) on Hwy. 64 between Tyrrell and Dare counties. It's a swing drawbridge that opens some 500 times a month for vessels to pass through. Built in 1950, the two-lane bridge is 2.8 miles long. NCDOT closed the bridge for about two weeks in April when maintenance was performed on the swing. Sid Atkinson of Harkers Island said he was responsible for the electrical controls here for 30 years. The winning entry, chosen at random from all correct submissions, was from Crystal Hardison of Manns Harbor, a member of Tideland EMC.

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I Remember...

Healthy people

This photo from my childhood shows (on the left) my grandparents and my sister, Sharon, in Alexander County in 1965. My grandfather Bill Mayberry was born in 1906 and lived to be 106. My grandmother Hessie passed at the age of 63. On the right, are my great-aunt Bessie and great-uncle Wade who visited periodically from Yadkinville. Bessie was my grandfather's sister, and she lived to be 102.

There were always kittens at Papaw's, and we had to "garden" in the summertime because Papaw said so. He always planted by the "almanac." I can remember cooking beets in the summer in a big black kettle.

Papaw was a "minute man." He wanted everything done immediately. He was also an avid checkers player. He never saw a doctor until about the age of 92, when he and a friend were in a minor wreck. When asked who his doctor was, he responded, "I don't have a doctor. They will kill you."

Over time, I could see how he mellowed with age. As grandchildren, we got peppermint stick candy for Halloween from Papaw. My kids (his great-grandchildren) got full-sized Mounds and Almond Joy candy bars for Halloween.

Sandra Miller, Taylorsville, EnergyUnited

My first car

It was early 1962 when Dad set up two 55-gallon drums down by the barn so I could practice my parallel parking. I tried to master this challenge in a straight-drive, 1961 two-door hardtop Ford. Dad had to replace the clutch, but when March came, I was ready to get my first driver's license.

When your dad does body work for a living, you don't have a choice of colors, but I was happy with this dark blue beauty he had purchased from salvage. He would buy a car, repair it, and drive it for a while before selling it. And this one was mine.

I had fun changing the look of the car. Sometimes I would remove the fender skirts and hubcaps. Other times, I would add one or the other back on. There were times when I would drive around with the seatbelt buckle to my mouth—it was a lap buckle—hoping people would think I had a CB radio on board. My favorite thing was the T Model horn Dad installed for me.

Carolyn Hartman Clodfelter, Lexington, EnergyUnited

Cheap canvas tennis shoes

Back in the 1930s times were tough financially. When I was 10, my family moved from Beaufort to the small town of Swansboro. Our first year there we were so poor we couldn't afford leather shoes like the girls my age were wearing. For our first day of school the only shoes Dad could afford were cheap canvas, ankle-high tennis shoes. With no money for socks, we wore them without socks.

The first day of school I knew I was going to be laughed at. But I was determined not to let it bother me. Sure enough, when two of my classmates first saw my funny-looking shoes they started pointing at them and laughing. I gave them a disdainful look and loudly declared, "Don't you girls know anything about style? This is what all the girls in the city are wearing. And please notice, you don't wear socks with them!"

A couple of weeks later, half the girls walked into class with a new pair of tennis shoes on: without socks!

Dorothy Worman, Morehead City, Carteret Craven Electric

SEND US YOUR *Memories*

We'll pay $50 for those we publish in the magazine. We can put even more on our Internet sites, but can't pay for them. (If you don't want them on the Internet, let us know.)

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2. Digital photos must be at least 600kb or 1200 by 800 pixels
3. No deadline, but only one entry per household per month.
4. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want yours returned
5. We pay $50 for each one published in the magazine. We retain reprint rights.
6. Include your name, mailing address and the name of your electric cooperative.
7. **E-mail:** iremember@carolinacountry.com **Or by U.S. mail:** I Remember, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Durham, NC

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at **www.septicleanse.com** or you can order or learn more by calling **toll free at 1-888-899-8345.** If you use the promo code **"DARNC5"**, you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs $169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

The Carolina Country Store

Holiday GIFT GUIDE

No Naked Meat

There's an ongoing battle in North Carolina over the best barbeque sauce: Eastern or Western. No Naked Meat combined the two styles into one great-tasting sauce. Using all natural ingredients, this sauce will take your taste buds on a sensational journey. It starts off sweet, moves to tangy and ends with just the right kick. This gluten-free sauce is great as a marinade, grilling sauce or for dipping and smothering anything and everything. It contains no high fructose syrup and no artificial flavors or preservatives. Don't get caught with naked meat. Dress it up!

No Naked Meat
148 Woodview Court
Fuquoy Vorino, NC 27526
(910) 893-9588
www.nonokedmeot.com

Elizabeth's Pecan Products

Elizabeth has created 12 delicious pecan products with her own North Carolina pecans since 1996. Included in her product line is a world famous "soft" pecan brittle — unlike any other you've ever had. Elizabeth's latest flavors include a White Satin pecan and an Orange Crème pecan — two distinct flavors with unbelievable tastes. You can't go wrong with any of Elizabeth's chocolate-flavored pecans as well. Elizabeth specializes in client gifts and North Carolina-shaped baskets filled with various sizes and flavors of her candies.

Elizabeth's Pecan Products
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Turkey, NC 28393
(866) EAT-PECANS (866-328-7322)
www.elizabethspecons.com

Carolina Shoppe

A premier online destination for Carolina-themed gifts and décor. Popular holiday gifts include North Carolina wall decor (shown is a vintage state flag on corrugated metal) and authentic marble coasters featuring popular destinations such as the Outer Banks. For the chef in your life, N.C. kitchen aprons and hand towels make ideal gifts. And for the collegiate fan on your list, you'll discover grill sets, picture frames and more. Carolina Shoppe celebrates the best of the Carolinas with N.C. and S.C. gifts from our communities. Supporting Carolina Shoppe means you're backing small businesses throughout the Carolinas.

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1200 Woodruff Rd, Suite G-27, Greenville, SC 29607
(864) 642-2028 | www.corolinashoppe.com

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

"Hot Pursuit" Art Print

After so many requests to paint this scene, Ronald went to the country and watched these little beagles run after the rabbits so hard that he was inspired to do this painting. He noticed each beagle had its own personality, so Ronald worked hard to capture the look of the determined lead dog to the last dog that's just having fun. Signed and numbered prints of "Hot Pursuit," measuring 16-by-20 inches, are available in full color on museum-quality paper, for $60 (includes shipping).

Ragland Prints
4215 Jane Lane, Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 876-8747
www.beagleart.com

Proud to be American made

After celebrating 20 years of business in 2012, Heart Gifts by Teresa (aka American Ornaments) is keeping with tradition of entirely made in the USA. There's no doubt that these ornaments are not manufactured but created from the heart and by the hands of Teresa Thibault. Her dreams actually come alive in each design. Every year 25 new designs are added to the collection. Although our customers love our new ornament designs they still love the most popular from the past like # 004-7 "Our First Christmas as Mr. and Mrs." and the favored "Nativity #1002."

Each ornament comes in its own gift box with gift card and can be personalized with a name or date for that special someone in your life.

American Ornaments
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(800) 650-3994
www.americanarnaments.com

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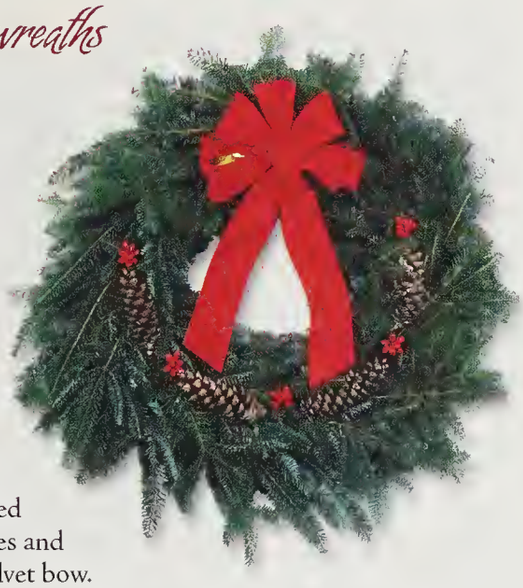

Appalachian Evergreens has been making Christmas greenery since 1933. Send us a list of your relatives and friends, and we'll ship by UPS our 24-inch Fraser fir wreath decorated with red berries, pine cones and a gold-backed velvet bow. It arrives at their front door with a gift card indicating it is from you. It's made from fresh greenery cut from our western North Carolina tree farms. And its spectacular evergreen scent, straight from nature, will fill your senses with thoughts of Christmas. $26 plus shipping and tax. Order by December 4.

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(877) 266-1609
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Taylors Peanuts

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For generations, the Taylor Goodness has inspired everything we do. Our high-quality Virginia peanuts are grown and cooked on the farm. This season, ask the Taylor family to give your family and friends delicious and nutritious home-cooked peanuts and candies. We are proud member of Goodness Grows in North Carolina.

Taylors Home Cooked Peanuts
1104 Statesville Rd.
Camo, NC 27818
(252) 398-9946
www.taylarspeanuts.com

Nancy Jo's Homemade Bakery

Nancy Jo's Homemade Bakery has been tempting customers' taste buds with our popular made-from-scratch cakes and pies for over 20 years. Whether it's the tried-and-true 12 Layer Chocolate Cake, the All Butter Pound Cake, or the Southern Pecan Pie, one bite is all it takes to make you a customer for life. Nancy Jo's Homemade has the perfect gift for your corporate clients, neighbors, teachers, friends and family. Cakes and pies arrive fresh and gift packaged. Call to place your order or visit one of our four locations.

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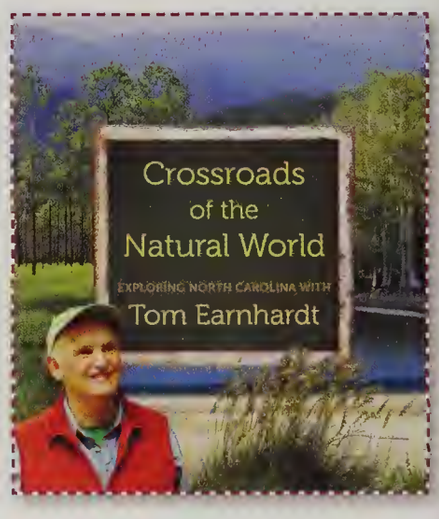
State Farmers Market, Raleigh, (919) 661-1507
200 East Main St. Suite 102, Clinton, (910) 299-5011
8600 E. Oak Island Dr., Oak Island (910) 250-1024
Piedmont-Triad Farmer's Market, Calfax, (919) 661-1507
www.NancyJasHomemade.com

"Savannah Morning" Art Print

On a Monday morning, Ronald was accidently locked inside an old rice plantation south of Savannah, Georgia. After finding his way out, he was inspired to paint this picture, which later won first place in a Florida art competition. Signed and numbered prints of "Savannah Morning," measuring 16-by-20 inches, are available in full color on museum-quality paper for $60 (includes shipping).

Ragland Prints
4215 Jane Lane, Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 876-8747
www.beagleart.com

Crossroads of the Natural World



"Exploring North Carolina with Tom Earnhardt," by Tom Earnhardt, foreword by William G. Ross Jr. In this richly illustrated love letter to the wild places and natural wonders of North Carolina, Tom Earnhardt, writer and host of UNC-TV's "Exploring North Carolina" and lifelong conservationist, seamlessly ties deep geological time and forgotten species from our distant past to the unparalleled biodiversity of today. Highlighting the ways in which the state is a unique ecological crossroads, Earnhardt's research, insightful writing, and stunning photography will both teach and inspire. 328 pages, 128 color photos, $35. Also available as an e-book.

University of North Carolina Press
Chapel Hill, NC
At bookstores or (800) 848-6224
southerngateways.com

"Suppertime" Art Print

"Come home, it's suppertime." These are the words Ronald Ragland heard while listening to a Southern gospel quartet in Clayton, N.C., sing the song that inspired him to paint this scene of his grandfather's homeplace with his grandmother calling him to supper from the back porch. Signed and numbered prints of "Suppertime," measuring 16-by-20 inches, are available in full color on museum-quality paper, for $60 (includes shipping).

Ragland Prints
4215 Jone Lone, Roleigh, NC 27604
(919) 876-8747
www.beogleort.com

SweeTea Shirts

SweeTea is a North Carolina company created to celebrate our Southern dialect on colorful pigment-dyed preshrunk women's t-shirts. Today, thousands of SweeTea shirts can be seen all over the country preserving the conversational charm of the South for future generations to enjoy. Our sayings will remind you of your favorite family expressions, so grab a cold glass of sweet ice tea and check out www.sweeteashirts.com. You'll not only fall in love with the soft comfort of the shirt, I swanee, you'll be amazed at how many people you're gonna make smile!

SweeTea LLC
P.O. Box 408
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www.sweeteashirts.com

Sauces, marinades, rubs

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Archdole, NC 27263
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(910) 333-6426
www.cookingwithgomms.com

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www.corolinocountry.com

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

"Memories" Art Print

Many people loved Ronald Ragland's "Memories" art print that was featured in Carolina Country, so he presents it again. It depicts his father, Hugh Ragland (right), priming tobacco with associate, Albert Downey, and his mule, George, while others in the background hand and tie tobacco for the curing barn. The scene is along Durham Road in Granville County where Ronald grew up. Look for the tobacco worm in the picture. Signed and numbered prints of "Memories," measuring 16-by-20 inches, are available in full color on museum-quality paper, for $60 (includes shipping).

Ragland Prints
4215 Jane Lane, Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 876-8747
www.beagleart.com

Quilt Lizzy

Quilt Lizzy is a full-service quilt shop in beautiful historic downtown Warrenton, N.C., with thousands of bolts of your favorite name brands such as Moda, Northcott, Hoffman, Timeless Treasures, Blank, Island Batik, RJR & Red Rooster among others. We carry Janome & HandiQuilter plus Horn of America Tables. We finish your quilt tops and offer binding services. Our custom quilts, T-shirt and memory quilts or tote bags make great gifts! Find our event calendar and shop online at www.quiltlizzy.com. Mail or e-mail catalog available upon request.

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(252) 257-7117
www.quiltlizzy.com

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Our bakery doesn't manufacture cookies, we create them. Our family business is more than 60 years old, and we still make cookies by hand, using rolling pins and cookie cutters. Visit and watch our "artists in aprons," then sample our six flavors: Ginger, Sugar, Lemon, Chocolate, Butterscotch, Black Walnut. We make about 100,000 pounds per year, and there are about 100 cookies per pound. That equals 10 million cookies, each cut one-by-one using a cookie cutter. Buy economically-priced cellophane bags at the bakery. For sending gifts, we ship tins and tubes worldwide. Easy ordering on our website.

Mrs. Hanes' Moravian Cookies
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www.HanesCookies.com

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Knotayankee.com

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Alzheimers North Carolina Gift Basket
Lorelines
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The Workboats of Core Sound

"Stories and Photographs of a Changing World," written and photographed by Lawrence S. Earley. Along the wide waters of eastern North Carolina, the people of many scattered villages separated by creeks, marshes and rivers depend on shallow-water boats, both for their livelihoods as fishermen and to maintain connections with one another and the rest of the world. The rich history of these hand-built wooden fishing boats, the people who work them, and the communities they serve lies at the heart of this evocative book of essays, interviews, and photographs. 176 pages, 109 photos, $35. Also available as an e-book.

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Chapel Hill, NC
At bookstores or (800) 848-6224
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southernsupreme.com

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Waxhaw, NC 28173
(704) 806-8749
www.proplugger.com

"The Search Party" Art Print

After spending a Saturday with Oneal Suit of Stem, N.C., watching him hunt with his prize beagles, Ronald decided to paint his first beagle print for Happy Jack dog products. This picture is now in homes from Florida to Canada. Signed and numbered prints of "The Search Party," measuring 16-by-20 inches, are available in full color on museum-quality paper for $60 (includes shipping).

Ragland Prints
4215 Jane Lane, Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 876-8747
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Lu Mil Vineyard
438 Suggs-Taylor Road
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(910) 866-5819
www.lumilvineyard.com

"Cold Pursuit" Art Print

"Cold Pursuit" is the latest print by Raleigh artist Ronald Ragland. After the success of the "Hot Pursuit" art print, Ronald heard from northern rabbit hunters asking him to paint a winter scene with beagles chasing a snowshoe hare, the rabbit with large hind legs that turns from brown to white during the winter. Signed and numbered prints of "Cold Pursuit," measuring 16-by-20 inches, are available in full color on museum-quality paper, for $60 (includes shipping).

Ragland Prints
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(919) 876-8747
www.beogleort.com

Down East calendar-cookbook

Core Sound's first recipe calendar, sponsored by Emerald Isle Realty, brings together traditional recipes and scenes from Down East Carteret County by artist Sue Sneddon. Recipes like Susan Hancock's "Stewed Shrimp" and June Jones' "Cedar Island Clam Bake" give testimony to generations of Down Easters' love and dependence on Core Sound's local seafood and the commercial fishing industry who brings it to the dock. The artwork brings to life the creeks and marshes of Down East. This cookbook-calendar is perfect for anyone who loves to cook and appreciates our coastal communities' heritage and beauty. $12.95 each plus shipping and tax.

Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center
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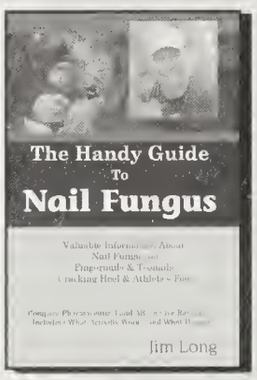

This handy guide helps you compare pharmaceutical and alternative remedies for nail fungus on fingernails & toenails, as well as cracking heel and athlete's foot, including what actually works (and what doesn't).

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Blue Eye, MO 65611

417-779-5450
Mon - Fri, 8:00 - 5:00 Central time

Long Creek Herbs

www.LongCreekHerbs.com

November Events

This year's Festival of Trees in Pinehurst promises to showcase more than 200 decorated holiday trees, wreaths, gift baskets and gingerbread houses throughout a winter wonderland. The five-day benefit for children, held Nov. 19-23, includes a silent auction, live entertainment and marketplace. (910) 692-3323 or festivaloftrees.org

Mountains (west of I-77)

Kickin Asphalt Half Marathon & 5K
Nov. 2, Murphy
(828) 837-2242

Blacksmith & Fine Craft Auction
Nov. 2, Brasstown
(828) 837-2775
folkschool.org

Mountain Quilt & Textile Show
Nov. 2–3, Hayesville
(828) 389-3704
ncmtnchamber.com

Veteran's Day Special
Nov. 7–11, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Pork Barbeque
Nov. 9, Tyrell
(828) 478-2581
rehobethumc.org/news.html

Climbin' The Chimney Challenge
Nov. 9, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Hometown Christmas Celebration
Nov. 15–16, Murphy
(828) 837-6821

Christmas Open House
Nov. 16, Valdese
(828) 874-2327
valdeseheritageartcenter.com

Turkey Supper
Nov. 23, Lake Lure
(828) 625-5517

Artisan & Crafters Expo
Nov. 23, Statesville
(704) 880-0363

Lighting Of The Town
Nov. 29, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-5222
blowingrock.com

Thanksgiving Kiln Opening
Nov. 30, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-3862
traditionspottery.com

Christmas Parade
Nov. 30, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-5222

ONGOING

Red, White & Bluegrass Jam
1st & 3rd Tuesdays through Nov., Foscoe
(828) 963-3546
facebook.com/rwbj.boone.nc

Guided House Tours
Wednesday–Saturdays, Marion
(828) 724-4948
historiccarsonhouse.com

Bluegrass Music Jam
Thursdays, Marion
(828) 652-2215

Art Crawl
First Fridays, Boone
(828) 262-4532
downtownboonenc.com

Concerts At The Creek
Fridays, Sylva
(800) 962-1911
mountainlovers.com

Ghost Train Halloween Train
Through Nov. 2, Blowing Rock
(919) 277-1176
tweetsie.com

Mammal Safari
Through Dec. 31, Gastonia
(704) 866-6908
schielemuseum.org

Live Bluegrass Music
Fridays through Dec. 26, Union Mills
(828) 748-7956
unionmillslearningcenter.org

Festival Of Trees
Nov. 29–Dec. 28, Sparta
(336)372-8062
coolsparta.com

Piedmont (between I-77 & I-95)

Cozy Cottage Craft Show
Nov. 1–2, Kernersville
(336) 993-2260

Persimmon Festival
Nov. 2, Colfax
(336) 682-5328
colfaxpersimmonfest.com

Christmas Craft Fair
Nov. 2, Littleton
(252) 586-6497

BJ Thomas
Celebrating a half century in music
Nov. 2, Smithfield
(919) 209-2099
jccperformingarts.com

ScanFest 2013
Nov. 2, Indian Trail
(704) 996-3731
scandinavianconnection.org

Artists Guild Studio Tour
Nov. 2–3 & 9–10, Orange County
(919) 942-7578
ocagnc.com

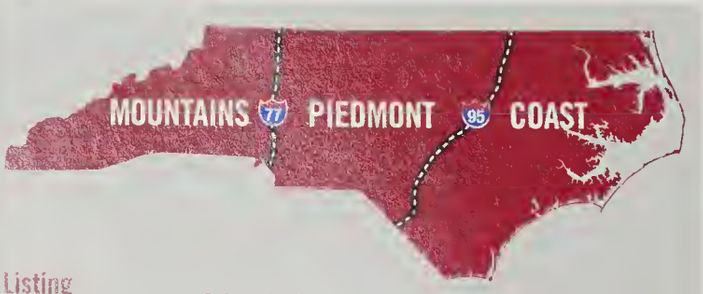
Holiday Art & Gift Show
Nov. 7–9, Raleigh
(919) 847-4868
visionsofsugarplumsraleigh.com

Holly Day Fair
Nov. 7–10, Fayetteville
(910) 323-5509
hollydayfair.com

Quilters Guild Quilt Show
Nov. 8–9, Asheboro
(336) 460-0886

Holiday Art Market
Nov. 9, Butner
(252) 492-6404
granvilleartscouncil.org/events.html

Railroad Railcar Ride
Nov. 9, Red Springs
(910) 285-6242
redspringandnorthern.com



Listing Deadlines:
For Feb.: Dec. 25
For March: Jan. 25

Submit Listings Online:
Visit carolinacountry.com and click "Carolina Adventures" to add your event to the magazine and/or our website. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com.

Ciompi String Quartet
With Alan Ware on clarinet
Nov. 10, Raleigh
(919) 664-6795
ncartmuseum.org

Comedian James Gregory
Nov. 14, Troy
(704) 985-6987
bluegrassintroy.com

The Music Man
Nov. 15–17, Smithfield
(919) 209-2099
jccperformingarts.com

Hometown Holidays
Nov. 15–16, Mebane
(919) 998-8257

Catawba Indian Pottery & Tribal History
Listen and Learn lecture series
Nov. 17, Waxhaw
(704) 843-1832
museumofthewaxhaws.org

Motorcycle Toy Run
Nov. 17, Goldsboro
(919) 738-2308

Festival Of Trees
Nov. 19–23, Pinehurst
(910) 692-3323
festivaloftrees.org

African American Artisans
Lecture about N.C. artists
Nov. 21, Raleigh
(919) 833-3431
joellane.org

La Fiesta Latin Jazz Ensemble
Nov. 21, Raleigh
(919) 923-2791
raleighmusicgroups.com

International Auto Show
Nov. 21–24, Charlotte
(704) 364-1078
charlotteautoshow.com

Celebration Of Seagrove Potters
Nov. 22–24, Seagrove
(336) 465-6584
celebrationofseagrovepotters.com

Open Barn
Nov. 23, Asheboro
Fiber crafts for sale, see alpacas
(336) 483-1945
carawayalpaca.com

Toy Train Show
Nov. 23, Charlotte
(919) 731-7027
se-tca.org

Christmas Parade
Nov. 24, Monroe
(704) 226-1407
thealliance forchildren.org

ONGOING

Maness Pottery & Music Barn
Dinner, music, fellowship
Tuesday nights, Carthage
(910) 948-4897
facebook.com/clydemaness

Durham Civil War Roundtable
Third Thursdays, Durham
(919) 643-0466

Art After Hours
Second Fridays, Wake Forest
(919) 570-0765
sunflowerstudiowf.com

Betty Lynn (Thelma Lou)
Andy Griffith Museum
Third Fridays, Mount Airy
(336) 786-7998
visitmayberry.com

Arts Councils' Fourth Friday
Fayetteville
(910) 483-5311
theartscouncil.org

Fear Factory
Through Nov. 2, Aberdeen
(910) 944-0908
aberdeenfearfactory.com

Codgerella
Humorous study about newly retired
Through Nov. 3, Albemarle
(704) 983-1020
uwharrieplayers.org

Artist Guild PAF Gallery Show
Through Nov. 7, Siler City
(919) 663-1335
chathamartistsguild.org

Gallery Of Arts
Through Nov. 10, Hillsborough
(919) 732-5001
hillsboroughgallery.com

Sweeny Todd (Musical)
Through Nov. 17, Fayetteville
(919) 323-3423
cfrt.org/season.php

Cauble Creek Artist Invitational
Through Nov. 17, Salisbury
(704) 633-1137
caublecreekvineyard.com

Centennial Exhibit
Terry Sanford High School
Through Nov. 30, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1457
fcpr.us/transportation_museum.aspx

The Photography Of Lewis Hine
"Exposing Child Labor
in NC 1908–1918"
Through Dec. 5, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Country Christmas Train
Nov. 30–Dec. 26, Denton
(336) 859-2755
countrychristmastrain.com

Bluegrass Music
Saturdays through Dec. 31, Mt. Gilead
(910) 220-6426
mgmusicbarn.com

Cumberland County Goes to War
Through December 31, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1457
fcpr.us/transportation_museum.aspx

Porsche By Design
Focusing on speed
Through Jan. 20, Raleigh
(919) 664-6773
ncartmuseum.org

The Art Of Giving
Artwork for holiday season
Nov. 11–Jan. 12, Hillsborough
(919) 732-5001
hillsboroughgallery.com

The Evolution Of Recorded Sound
Through Mar. 8, Dallas
(704) 825-4044
gastoncountymuseum.org

Coast (east of I-95)

Parents Night Out
Nov. 1, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600

Uptown First Friday Artwalk
Nov. 1, Greenville
(252) 561-8400
uptowngreenville.com

Candlelight Reflections Ceremony
Alzheimers benefit
Nov. 1, Greenville
(252) 355-0054
alznc.org

Down East Holiday Show
Nov. 1–3, Greenville
(252) 493-7287
downeastholidayshow.com

Pecan Harvest Festival
Nov. 2, Whiteville
(910) 642-4299
ncpecanfestival.com

Oyster Roast
Nov. 2, Varnamtown
(910) 842-6425

Fall Bazaar
Nov. 2, Bridgeton
(252) 638-4638

United Methodist Bazaar & Dinner
Nov. 2 & 5, Hatteras
Email: hatterasumc@embarqmail.com

Celebrate one of North Carolina's oldest traditions Nov. 22–24 in Seagrove. Its Annual Pottery Festival will be held as well as a separate Celebration of Potters. Events include N.C. crafts, children's activities and a pottery auction. Celebration: (336) 465-6584 or celebrationofseagrovepotters.com Festival: (336) 873-7304 or visitnc.com

The Gateway Bank Outer Banks Marathon weekend will be held Nov. 8-10. The main marathon starts in Kitty Hawk and the half marathon begins in Nags Head. Both finish on Roanoke Island. Shorter races are also available. (877) 629-4386 or outerbanksmarathon.com

Land Of The Free
Tribute to armed forces
82nd Airborne Chorus
Nov. 3, Wilmington
(910) 616-5384

Nature Trek With A Ranger
Nov. 5, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600

Freeboot Friday
Nov. 8 & 15, Greenville
(252) 561-8400
uptowngreenville.com

The Artisans Holiday Boutique
Nov. 8–9, Southport
(910) 253-3532
theartisans.info

Outer Banks Marathon & Half Marathon
Nov. 8–10, Manteo
(877) 629-4386
outerbanks.org

Holiday Gift Show
Nov. 8–10, New Bern
(252) 635-5658
encshows.com

Wearable Art Show
Nov. 10, Washington
(252) 945-5172
innerbanksartisanscenter.com

Concert By Ruth Wyand
Nov. 15, New Bern
(252) 646-4657
downeastfolkarts.org

A Christmas Carol
Nov. 15, Greenville
(800) 342-5328
ecu.edu

Candlelight Tour
Nov. 15–16, Currie
(910) 283-5591
nps.gov/mocr

Concert By Ruth Wyand
Nov. 16, Beaufort
(252) 646-4657
downeastfolkarts.org

Fall Bazaar/Yard Sale
Nov. 16, Bath
(252) 923-4140

White Christmas
Nov. 21–24, Farmville
(252) 753-3832
farmvillearts.org

Band Of Oz Dance
Nov. 22, Morehead City
(252) 728-9060
moreheadcitybeaufortelks.com

Four Seasons Chamber Music Concert
Nov. 22, Greenville
(800) 342-5328
ecu.edu

Musician Paul Saik
Nov. 22, Rocky Mount
(252) 985-5250
ncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter/

ECU Symphony Concert
Nov. 23, Greenville
(252) 328-6851
edu.edu

Paul Saik Christmas Concert
Nov. 24, New Bern
(252) 633-3318
rivertowneplayers.com

The New Born King
Christmas musical
Nov. 29, Scotland Neck
(252) 826-3152
townofscotlandneck.com

ONGOING

Art Walk
First Friday, Elizabeth City
(252) 335-5330
ecncart.com

Art Walk
First Friday, Greenville
(252) 329-4200
uptowngreenville.com

Making Of Gone With The Wind
Movie costumes, props, memorabilia
Through Dec., Elizabeth City
(252) 335-1453
museumofthealbemarle.com

Dead Wood Western Theme Park
Through Dec., Williamston
(252) 792-8516
visitmartincounty.com

CAROLINA COUNTRY adventures

Day Trip

100+ Years of Progress Show

The invention of the tractor meant a giant leap forward for farmers. Steam-powered tractors and their more evolved descendants eventually birthed large-scale farming, lowering costs and boosting productivity.

Built to get the job done, not for comfort, the early machines had steel seats (ouch!) and stubborn steering. The hardy folks who operated them had to be mechanically inclined, maybe even part railroad engineer, if they wanted their engines to keep a 'going.

You can enjoy some of these rare, steam-powered tractors at the 100+ Years of Progress show, a family-oriented event in Carthage, Moore County, held annually the first weekend in November. Hosted by collectors Ken and Patti Eder, it showcases more than 1,000 machines.

Visitors see one-of-a-kind tractors as well as machines made by International Harvesters (think Moguls and Titans), John Deere, McCormick Deering, General Electric, Rumleys and much more in the Eders' barns and buildings. Crews operate restored tractors, as well as a steam-powered sawmill, so folks can appreciate how powerful these old machines were.

100+ Years of Progress
Friday–Sunday, Nov. 1–3
644 Niagra Carthage Rd.,
Carthage, N.C., 28327
Admission: $10 a day,
$18 for two days,
$25 for a three-day pass.

(919) 708-8665
edervillenc.com

Ederville

The Eders have created an old-timey village, including replicas of a general store, log cabin and saloon, nicknamed "Ederville." Visitors (about 10,000 in recent years) can purchase root beer floats, cotton candy, and fried chicken and homemade goods from crafters. A small steam train called "Smokey Pokey" takes passengers around the grounds, there'll be live bluegrass music, and the popular "Money in the Hay" event.

According to Patti Eder, the Eders have the largest collection of its kind in the world and some of the machines can't be seen elsewhere. (Ederville is not open generally, but the Eders do show their machine collection to large groups by appointment.)

New this year

The Antique Caterpillar Machinery Owners Club will be at the event with the 2013 ACMOC National Show, exhibiting and operating vintage tractors. Auman Auctions will also hold a consignment vintage motors and tractor auction on Friday, Nov. 1, in the pulling field.

Travel info

For more about Carthage, visit townofcarthage.org and also carolinacountry.com (type in "Cameron & Carthage" for our 2013 travel article on these neighboring towns).

—Karen Olson House

By Hannah McKenzie

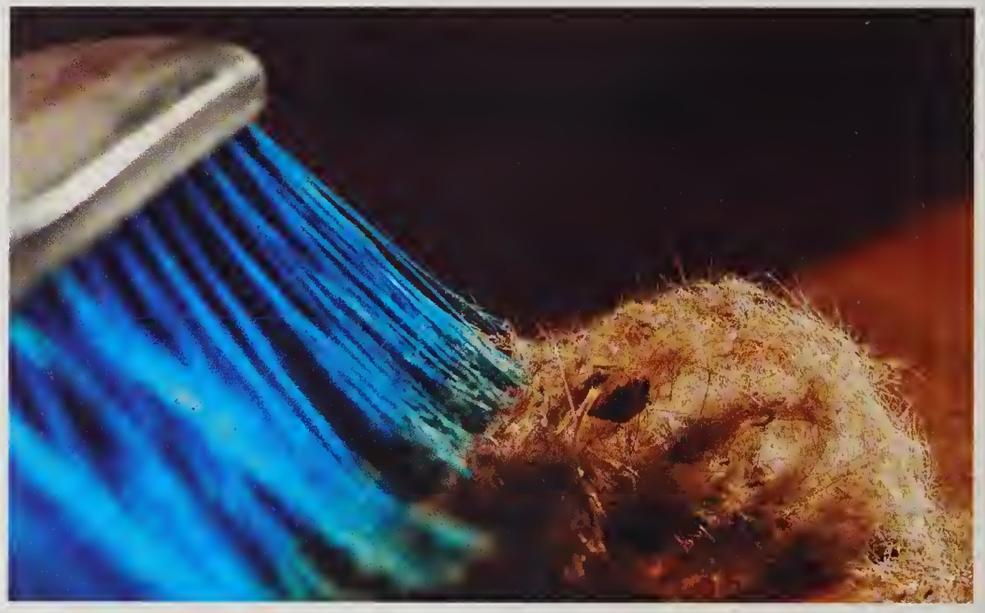
Battling dust

How to find where all that dust comes from and what to do about it

Q: My house is extremely dusty despite frequent cleaning. Is there something about my house that makes it dustier than other homes? What can I do to make this better?

A: My parents would point to furry indoor pets as the culprits. I disagree. You can keep your furry friends and still drastically improve the dust problem.

Assuming that no one smokes inside your home and your weekly cleaning regime already includes vacuuming, mopping, dusting with a damp rag, and washing your and your pet's bedding, your vacuum cleaner or house may be the problem.



Vacuum cleaners

Vacuum cleaners do a great job sucking up marbles, socks and dog fur but many of them blow pet dander, dust mite feces, and other fine particulates out through the joints in the vacuum and through the exhaust. Essentially the vacuum cleaner could be sucking up undesirable dust and blowing it back into your home.

The airborne dust slowly resettles on hard surfaces making it look like you didn't recently clean. A vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter will reduce the amount of dust exhausted. Choose a vacuum that has minimally leaky joints by feeling for air blowing out of the joints. Look for gaskets and sturdy construction, interview sales people and read reviews. A high-quality vacuum cleaner may be more of an investment, but you should find yourself vacuuming and dusting less often.

HVAC systems

Another culprit of dust in your home may be your heating and cooling system.

Air filters should be checked monthly and changed at least every three months. A filthy air filter will cause the system to suck dust from the attic or crawlspace into the duct system. Keep in mind that the main purpose of the air filter is to protect your HVAC system from dust. Catching airborne cat fur is a secondary benefit.

Dust caked on or around the air supply grills is a tell-tale sign that the duct system can be improved. This dust can be from inside your ducts or from around the hole that connects the duct to the ceiling or floor. You can do an initial improvement by removing the grill and caulking where the metal "boot" touches the ceiling or floor. Once the caulk has dried, put the grill back in place. This upgrade will stop some of the insulation and dust from the attic or crawlspace from being blown into your home.

If excess dust persists, consider hiring an HVAC contractor to seal the existing duct joints and seams with a sealant called "mastic" that comes in a bucket. Small gaps in the ducts can suck dust into the HVAC system and then blow it into your home. An added benefit of duct sealing is noticeable energy savings and improved comfort. Homes built using the 2012 North Carolina Residential Code or earning the Energy Star already meet stringent duct sealing standards.

Other ideas

There could be other unique sources of dust around your home. Be a sleuth and look for areas with lots of dust to try and figure out the source.

Other simple solutions include using door mats outside and walk-off mats inside entry doors. Try not wearing your shoes inside. As much as possible, minimize the number of carpeted floors. Carpet holds dust despite the best vacuum cleaners. And, you can also bathe your dog regularly to cut down on dirt and dander.

As a last resort, bathe the cats. (Just kidding!)

If your vacuum cleaner and home have been improved and the dust persists, we can start to consider air filtration systems. More on that next month.

Hannah McKenzie is a residential building science consultant for Advanced Energy (advancedenergy.org) in Raleigh.

Enjoy A Bath Again... Safely and Affordably

The Jacuzzi® Walk-In tub is luxurious, feature-packed and affordable

There is nothing like the simple pleasure of taking a warm bath. The cares of the day seem to fade away, along with the aches and pains of everyday life. Unfortunately for many aging Americans with mobility issues, slipping into a bath can result in slipping onto the floor. The fear of falling has made the simple act of bathing and its therapeutic benefits a thing of the past until now. Jacuzzi®, the company that perfected hydrotherapy, has created a walk-in tub that offers more than just safe bathing, peace-of-mind and independence, it can actually help you feel better.

Unlike traditional bathtubs, this Walk-In Tub features a leak-proof door that allows you to simply step into the tub rather than stepping precariously over the side. It features a state-of-the-art acrylic surface, a raised seat, and the controls are within easy reach. No other Walk-In Tub features the patented Jacuzzi® PointPro® jet system. These high-volume, low-pressure pumps feature a perfectly balanced water to air ratio to massage thoroughly yet gently. Some swirl, some spiral, some deliver large volumes of water and others target specific pressure points. They are all arranged in precise locations designed to deliver a therapeutic massage, yet they are fully adjustable so that your bathing experience can be completely unique.

SEE THE JACUZZI® DIFFERENCE
Laboratory tests clearly show how Jacuzzi® jets outperform other manufacturers' jet systems, producing a deeper and wider plume of revitalizing bubbles. You get the best technology for an affordable price!

Why spend another day wishing you could enjoy the luxury and pain-relieving benefits of a safe, comfortable bath? Call now and you'll get an unsurpassed limited lifetime warranty. Knowledgeable product experts are standing by to help you learn more about this product. Call Today!

What To Look For in a Walk-In Tub:

Five major considerations to help make an informed decision before buying a Walk-In Tub:

- **Quality** - A walk-in tub is a major investment. You want to find a quality tub that will last for decades. Look for one that's 100% leak-proof, mold-resistant, full metal frame construction and one that's American made.
- **Warranty** - Ask for a lifetime "no leak guarantee." The best tubs offer a lifetime warranty on both the tub and the operating system.
- **Pain Relieving Therapy** - Find a tub that has both water and air jet therapy to soak away your aches and pains preferably with a perfectly balanced water to air mix. This tub is the first to offer a specialized foot massage experience. Its unique spinning motion provides optimal therapy to feet and legs. Best of all, you get it at no additional charge.
- **Comfort** - Insist on ergonomic design, easy-to-reach controls.
- **Endorsements** - Only consider tubs that are ETL or UL listed. Also look for a tub tested to IAPMO (International Assoc. of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials) standards and that's USPC (Universal Spa Plumbing Code) Certified.

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By James Dulley

Sizing up storm doors

A variety of options to meet ventilation and budget needs

Even though a door is a relatively small area, it can lose a significant amount of energy. Even insulated doors typically have some glass, which has lower insulation value. An inadequate weather stripping around doors will allow air to leak through.

Adding storm doors can certainly improve the energy efficiency of almost any house, but they are not designed to correct efficiency problems of an old, warped primary door. Before buying anything new, make sure your primary doors are as airtight as possible.

If possible, purchase replacement weather stripping for your existing doors from the original manufacturer. If you can't find it, most home improvement stores sell many styles of generic weather stripping that should fit. Pry off the old door molding, fill any gaps around the framing with non-expanding foam insulation, and caulk around the door frame.

The quality of the storm door construction is important for a nice appearance, long life, and security. It must withstand a lot of abuse, so don't just pick the cheapest one. From strictly an energy efficiency standpoint, though, the most important factors are the dead air space between the storm and primary doors and how well wind is blocked.

Affordable DIY project

Buying an aluminum storm door and installing it yourself is the typical low-cost option. They're very lightweight and made to fit standard-sized openings, so installing one is a simple do-it-yourself project.

When you see the door on display attached to a wooden frame at the store, the aluminum frame will feel very strong. When you open the box at home, you may find the unattached aluminum frame strips are somewhat flexible. Be careful not to kink them during handling. Apply a generous bead of caulk on the back of the aluminum frame when screwing it to the door frame.

Screens for fresh air

If you plan to use natural ventilation during the summer, a self-storing triple-track storm/screen door is your most convenient option. The screen panel has its own vertical track in the door, so it never has to be removed. At the end of winter, just slide one of the glass panels down and slide the screen panel up for ventilation.

A fairly new design of storm/screen door uses a spring-mounted roll-up retractable screen built into the door. When you are ready for ventilation, just lower the glass and pull the screen down as far as you wish. This design is attractive because the screen is hidden during winter without having to remove and store the screen panels.

Upscale choices

If you can afford it, some very attractive all-wood frame (made with mortise and tenon joints) storm/screen doors are available. These are strong and secure but do require regular wood maintenance. For added security, ornate wrought iron storm doors are available with actual deadbolts and very tough, break-in resistant stainless steel screens.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit dulley.com.

These companies offer storm/screen doors:

Cumberland Woodcraft (800) 367-1884
cumberlandwoodcraft.com

Emco Specialties (800) 933-3626
emcodoors.com

Homeguard Industries (800) 525-1885
home-guard.net

Pella (800) 374-4758
pella.com

ProVia Door (877) 389-0835
proviadoor.com

Above, top: This storm door has a retractable insect screen. This operating system includes a concealed screen that rolls up and out of sight when it's not in use.

Above, bottom: It is easy to install a storm door. With pre-assembled parts, no cutting is required, and pre-drilled installation and assembly holes eliminate any guesswork.

Business Opportunities

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Vacation Rental

BEACH HOUSE, N. Myrtle Beach, SC. 4BR/2B, sleeps 12–14. 828-478-3208. Send e-mail for photos to: bnagel36@charter.net

BEACH HOUSE, COROLLA, OBX. 3 story, 5/BR, 5½/BA , elevator, swimming pool, hot tub, Oceanside. Two houses from lake–beautifully furnished. Call 252-636-2200 for rates.

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APPLE TREES–OLO SOUTHERN VARIETIES and modern disease resistant varieties; Free catalog; custom grafting and shipping available. Century Farm Orchards, David C. Vernon, Reidsville, NC. 336-349-5709; www.centuryfarmorchards.com or e-mail: david@centuryfarmorchards.com

100 ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK–700+ RECIPES, 3-ring binder, hardcover. Send $20.00 to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 1316 Circle S Ranch Road, Monroe, NC 28112.

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Miscellaneous

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Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes With Cream Cheese Frosting

- ¾ cup butter, softened
- 2½ cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 can (15 ounces) solid-pack pumpkin
- 2⅓ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 cup buttermilk

Frosting:

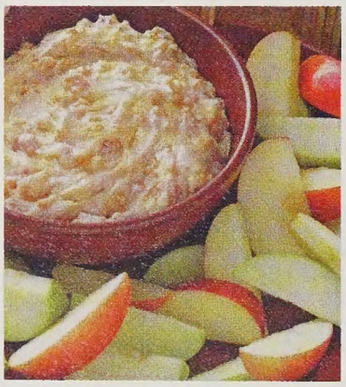
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add pumpkin. Combine the flour, pie spice, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, baking soda and ginger; add to the creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating well after each addition.

Fill paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full. Bake at 350 degrees for 20–25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

For frosting: In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add the confectioners' sugar, vanilla and cinnamon; beat until smooth. Frost cupcakes. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yield: 2 dozen



Apple Brickle Dip

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 package almond brickle chips (7½ ounces) or English toffee bits (10 ounces)
- 3 medium tart apples, cut into chunks

In a bowl, beat cream cheese, sugars and vanilla. Fold in brickle chips. Serve with apples. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Yield: 2 cups

Baked Sweet Potato Pudding

- 4 cups mashed sweet potatoes
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 eggs, separated
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup flaked coconut, divided
- ⅓ cup packed brown sugar
- ⅓ cup slivered almonds
- Vanilla ice, optional

In a large bowl, beat the potatoes, cream, egg yolks, lemon juice, lemon peel and spices until smooth. Fold in ⅔ cup coconut.

In a large bowl with clean beaters, beat egg whites on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in brown sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, on high until stiff glossy peaks form and sugar is dissolved.

With a spatula, stir a fourth of the egg whites into sweet potato mixture until no white streaks remain. Fold in remaining egg whites until combined.

Transfer to a greased 11-by-7-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with almonds and remaining coconut. Bake at 325 degrees for 50–55 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Serve warm with ice cream if desired.

Yield: 8 servings

From Your Kitchen

Butterfinger Cake

- 1 box Swiss chocolate cake mix
- 1 small box Jell-O instant vanilla pudding
- 3 eggs
- 1½ cups milk
- ¾ cup oil

Frosting:

- 4 Butterfinger candy bars, finely chopped
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 package (8-ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 container (16 ounces) Cool Whip, softened

Combine all ingredients and mix with electric mixer. Spray four 8-inch pans with Bakers Joy. Bake 20–25 minutes at 325 degrees or until it tests done. Let cool completely.

Frosting: Crush three of the Butterfingers and set aside. Blend cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and granulated sugar with mixer. Add Cool Whip; mix well. Fold in crushed candy bars and nuts. Generously frost each layer. Crush a fourth Butterfinger candy bar and sprinkle on top of cake. Refrigerate and enjoy.

Crystal Pittman of Hope Mills, a member of South River EMC

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